



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF  
PREVENTION, PESTICIDES  
AND TOXIC SUBSTANCES

December 31, 1998

Robert E. M. Wurz, Ph.D.  
Regulatory Affairs  
Novartis Crop Protection, Inc.  
P.O. Box 18300  
Greensboro, NC 27419-8300

Dear Dr. Wurz:

The Agency has received Novartis's November 30, 1998 letter to Marcia Mulkey requesting an extension to submit comments on the preliminary environmental fate and ecological effects risk assessment for methidathion. She has asked me to respond. In your letter, you committed to submit your comments by December 23, 1998. Separately, Novartis also requested an extension to submit comments on the preliminary human health risk assessment for methidathion. While the Agency received comments on the health risk assessment on December 10, 1998, as originally requested, it is my understanding that my staff had agreed to consider any additional error-type comments received by December 23, 1998, although none have been received.

As planned, the Agency intends to open the docket for a 60-day public comment period for both the environmental and health effects risk assessments by January 14, 1999. Since the Agency did not receive your comments on the preliminary environmental effects risk assessment until December 29, 1998, we cannot assure that they will be incorporated in this risk assessment before this period begins. However, we will include your comments in the docket when it opens. The 60-day public comment period will provide another opportunity for Novartis and Gowan to submit to the Agency any additional comments on these risk assessments.

If you have any questions, please contact Michael Goodis at (703) 308-8157.

Sincerely,

Kathy S. Monk, Chief  
Reregistration Branch II  
Special Review and  
Reregistration Division